



NEWS RELEASE

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UPCOMING INFORMATIONAL MEETING TO DISCUSS VALUE-ADDED AGRICULTURE GRANTS

Ainsworth, Neb., June 24, 2004 -- Farmers and ranchers, groups of agricultural producers, and agribusinesses are invited to learn about the Value-Added Agricultural Product Market Development Grant (VADG) program on June 28th in Burwell, Neb. The meeting will be held at the United Nebraska Bank at 163 Grand Avenue from 10:00 a.m. till 12:00 p.m. CDT.

Mary Gambill with USDA Rural Development will conduct a VADG presentation regarding program details; including an overview of both the planning grants and working capital grants, eligibility requirements and how to apply for funds.

Competitive applications are being accepted for \$13.2 million in grants offered through the Value-Added Agricultural Product Market Development Grant (VADG) program. The VADG program encourages independent producers of agricultural commodities to process their raw products into marketable, value-added goods, thereby increasing farm income.

The VADG program is open to eligible independent producers, agricultural producer groups, farmer or rancher cooperatives, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures. The funds can be used to add value to products or commodities that will expand the customer base and assist producers in realizing greater revenues from the value-added activity.

For more information on the VADG program call Mary Gambill at 402-387-2242.

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